THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) India has over 120 million farm holding and the existing annual analyzing capacity for soil testing is 6.72 million samples, which is insufficient to reach each and every land holding. However, most of the States are using soil fertility maps prepared at district/block levels based on nutrient indexing.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Central Government is providing financial assistance for setting up/ strengthening of soil testing laboratories in the country through Macro Management Scheme.

**Price bulletin of agricultural commodities**

2624. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the Parliamentary Committees had recommended that NAFED should work out a central mechanism for bringing out a price bulletin of various agricultural commodities on a daily basis;

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted the recommendations of the Committee;

(c) if so, what measures are being taken/proposed to be taken to implement the recommendation and the details of the financial allocations made for the purpose, if any; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The report of the Estimates Committee of the Lok Sabha has recently been received and is under examination.

**Proposal for Grant-in-aid by districts of Madhya Pradesh**

†2625. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals of Harda, Barvani, Neemach, Shyopur, Khandwa, Wurhanpur, Bhopal, Sihor, Shajapur, Devas, Ratlam, Mureina, Chhindwara, Raisen, Vidisha, Hoshangabad districts of M.P. for getting grant-in-aid under the centrally sponsored schemes under Intensive Dairy Development Project have been sent by M.P. State Cooperative Dairy Federation to his Ministry in different forms in the years 2005 and 2006; and

(b) by when these proposals would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Madhya Pradesh State Cooperative Dairy

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Federation Ltd., Bhopal has submitted proposals for dairy development only in Jhabua, Balaghat, Chindwara, Harda, Barwani, Neemuch, Sheopur, Seoni, Burhanpur, Khandwa, Raisen-Vidisha, Hoshangabad districts under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Intensive Dairy Development Programme" (IDDP) during the year 2005 and 2006.

Projects covering districts of Jhabua, Balaghat, Chindwara, Harda, Barwani, Neemuch, Sheopur, Seoni have been approved. Project proposals in respect of the districts of Burhanpur, Khandwa, Raisen-Vidisha, Hoshangabad were examined in the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries and observations were conveyed to State Government.

Proposals for Bhopal, Sihor, Shajapur, Devas, Ratlam, and Morena districts have not been received in the Department.

**MSP for coarse cereals**

2626. SHRI T. T. V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to introduce Minimum Support Price for coarse cereals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government announces, every year, the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for specified agricultural commodities, including coarse cereals *viz.* jowar, bajra, maize, ragi and barley.

**Declining foodgrains production and increasing population**

†2627. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a constant decline in foodgrains production of the country due to rising trend of cash crops, increasing population and expansion of industrial-commercial activities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during the last four years while population has increased by 8 per cent, the production of foodgrains has declined by 8 per cent as a result of which the number of persons suffering from malnutrition is increasing;

(c) whether Government have prepared any action plan to contain the situation of slowly creeping starvation and to increase the foodgrains production so as to bring diversification in rural life; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.